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Section I: AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following for the second paragraph on page 10 of the specification:

"The initialization or establishment of a new and separate alert port by the server for the alert message is illustrated in Figure 4. Typically, in the past, messages from a server to a user device have been sent by email, for example, from a server 401 to a user terminal or device 403 through an email server 407. As illustrated, the email is sent by the server 401 through one port "A" to the email server 407 and then the email is transmitted through another port "B" to the user terminal 403. The establishment and use of a new and separate port "C" between the auction server 401 and the user terminal 403 bypasses much processing in the email server and allows much faster delivery of transaction status messages to the user. In the present example, ~~port #4003 was selected as port "C"~~ port C was selected to send alert messages from an auction server to a user device."

Please substitute the following for the last paragraph on the bottom of page 12 and the top of page 13 of the specification:

"The exemplary user or client terminal methodology is illustrated in Figure 7. As shown, when the processing begins 701 the listener service is started 703 and the listener function at the user terminal waits for an alert message 705 from the auction server through the special message port (e.g. ~~Port #4003~~ Port C) established by the server. If the message is not received over the alert port, the process returns to await the next received alert 705. When a message is received over the designated alert port 707, a check is made to determine if the alert is intended for the client terminal 709 and if so, the message is processed

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to activate the client-selected audio alert scheme 711, i.e. the alert selections made in Figure 3 are executed."